

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00483 101143 Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 GAC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 MBFR-03 RSR-01

NEA-10 /146 W

----- 026044

R 101040 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 702

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNATO BRUSSELS 035

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0483

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MARR SO UR

SUBJ: ARTICLE ON SOMALI- SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: STATE 065604

1. SUMMARY. PUBLICATION OF SUCH TENDENTIOUS AND INACCURATE ARTICLE BY NEWSPAPER AS PRESTIGIOUS AS NEW YORK TIMES AND PARTICULARLY IT BEING REPORTED BY VOA BOUND TO HAVE VERY ADVERSE EFFECT ON US- SOMALI RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. LEAK TO NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT OF BOTH HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND GRAVE INACCURACIES MOST UNFORTUNATE. FACT THAT AMERICAN MILITARY ANALYSTS ARE CITED GIVES RING OF AUTHENTICITY AND TENDS GIVE IMPRESSION THAT ARTICLE WAS DELIBERATELY INSPIRED.

3. ARTICLE BAD ENOUGH PER SEE -- BUT FOR GOVERNMENT ORGAN TO CARRY IT AND TO CARRY IT AS PROMINENTLY AS IT DID THIS
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00483 101143 Z

MORNING IS INEXPLICABLE.

4. I WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS US POLICY TO KEEP COLD WAR OUT OF AFRICA AND ALSO TO TRY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. THIS ARTICLE AND FACT IT FEATURED BY VOA GOES DIRECTLY COUNTER TO SUCH POLICY. IT COMES AT PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TIME WITH HEATING UP OF ETHIOPIAN- SOMALI TENSIONS.

5. SOMALIS HAVE LONG SUSPECTED US HOSTILITY TO THEIR REGIME. MOREOVER, BAFFLED BY SUDDEN ETHIOPIAN TROOP BUILDUP IN OGADEN, THEY SUSPECT WE AND ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN EGGING ETHIOPIANS ON. WITH NEW YORK TIMES STORY, SOMALI GOVERNMENT BOUND COME TO CONCLUSION THAT US IS ORCHESTRATING HOSTILE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOMALIA, DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS IT AND FRUSTRATE ITS ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES.

6. IN MY UPCOMING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SIAD, I SHALL DELIVER PRESIDENT'S LETTER, WHICH I HAD HOPED MIGHT OPEN NEW PHASE IN OUR RELATIONS. POSITIVE EFFECT OF THIS LETTER WILL BE GREATLY REDUCED BY ARTICLE AND ITS APPARENT ENDORSEMENT BY USG.
LOORAM

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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